

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03198 241159Z

53

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-07 /085 W

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R 241121Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5658

INFO USUN NEW YORK 602

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3198

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG,PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF FINAL CONFERENCE
DOCUMENTS

REF: COLOMBO 3183 (NOTAL)

1. EVENING OF AUGUST 23 AMBASSADOR FRANCIS DALE HAD TWENTY-MINUTE PHONE CONVERSATION WITH SL AMBASSADOR TOGENEVA SUSTANTHA DE ALWIS, WHO SERVED AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE CONFERENCE (TO SECRETARY GENERAL VERNON MINDIS).

2. DE ALWIS CONFIRMED HE HAD HOPED TO LEAVE FOR GENEVA, AUGUST 24, BUT WOULD DELAY DEPARTURE TO 26TH OR MORE LIKELY THE 28TH. HE SAID HE HAD WORKED EVERYHXY AND EVENING SINCE THE CONFERENCE CLOSED SHUTTLEING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CONFERENCE SITE AT MICH (WHERE SECRETARIAT IS WRESTLING WITH DOCUMENTS AND TRANSLATIONS) AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHERE HE RECEIVED NO LESS THAN TEN DELEGATIONS ON THE 23RD ALONE. THESE ARE DELEGATIONS OF NAC MEMBER COUNTRIES CALLING TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE LANGUAGE IN THE FINAL DOCUMENTS. "NO, YOUR LANGUAGE IS NOT WHAT WE AGREED UPON; HERE IS THE LANGUAGE THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 03198 241159Z

WAS AGREED UPON." THIS WOULD DOUBTLESS CONTINUE FOR

SEVERAL DAYS MORE.

3. THIS UNPLEASANT NEWS CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAD HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES: THAT A VERITABLE TUG OF WAR IS GOING ON OVER THE EXACT FORMULATIONS WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, WITH CUBANS AND NORTH KOREANS IN PARTICULAR HOVERING AROUND THE DOCUMENTS CENTER. HOPEFULLY, THIS PARADE OF DELEGATIONS TO MDFA WILL ALSO INCLUDE SOME WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE AND PERHAPS RESTATE THEIR RESERVATIONS ON VARIOUS ISSUES.

4. FACT THAT DE ALWIS IS INVOLVED IN THIS EXERCISE WOULD SUGGEST THAT SOME OF QUESTIONS ON LANGUAGE ARE ARISING IN ECONOMIC MATTERS, SINCE THIS WOULD BE HIS FIELD. HOWEVER, HE REMARKED RUEFULLY TO AMB. DALE THAT HE HAD EXPECTED TO BE IN THE THICK OF THE ECONOMIC DRAFTING, BUT INSTEAD HAD BEEN CHAINED TO HIS TABLE IN THE PLENARY THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE, TO HIS DISAPPOINTMENT.

5. MEANWHILE, ROK DEPUTY TRADE COMMISSIONER LEE TELLS US THEY EXPECT APPROXIMATELY 26 RESERVATIONS ON KOREAN RESOLUTION AND SHOWED US THEIR TENTATIVE LIST. WE CERTAINLY HOPE HE IS RIGHT.
PERKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB03198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760322-1335
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760827/aaaaawkg.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COLOMBO 3183
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF FINAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006